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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 003582

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/15/2016

TAGS: PREF PREL PHUM TH KS KN DPRK

SUBJECT: NO DECISION FROM THAI ON U.S. RESETTLEMENT
PROCESSING OF THREE NORTH KOREANS

REF: A. BANGKOK 3226

1B. BANGKOK 3255
1C. STATE 87302

Classified By: AMBASSADOR RALPH BOYCE, REASON 1.4 (B,D).

¶1. (C) In a June 14 telephone conversation, the Ambassador raised the three North Korean refugees who are seeking U.S. resettlement (reflets) with Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Krit Garnjana-Goonchorn. The Ambassador urged Krit to permit U.S. resettlement processing of the three and noted that the USG was committed to discreet handling of such cases. The Ambassador said that he had discussed the matter with interested U.S. Senators and told them of the importance of handling North Korean refugee resettlement confidentially. The USG did not know how many North Koreans in Thailand might seek U.S. resettlement.

¶2. (C) Krit responded that the MFA was in contact with the Thai National Security Council and Ministry of Interior regarding the three North Koreans. There was not yet a formal RTG position. Krit said he appreciated the U.S. position on handling the matter discreetly. He did not give an indication of how the decision might come out, nor did he express a position for or against.

¶3. (C) Embassy will continue to track the RTG's consideration this issue closely.

BOYCE